



9. Garza
#6
1-22-02
PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 05552.1442

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)

Ralf OTTO et al.)

Serial No.: 09/551,581)

Filed: April 18, 2000)

For: CLOSURE APPLIANCE FOR
REAGENT CONTAINERS)

Group Art Unit: 1852

Examiner: Patricia K. Bex

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated December 21, 2001, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I - claims 7-11 and Group II - claims 12-13. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 7-11 drawn to an appliance for opening and closing reagent container stoppers.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 11, 2002

By: *Elizabeth M. Burke*

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